

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 6 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 2-5 and added new claims 8-10. Claims 2-5 and 8-10 are now pending.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-4, and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Document No. 0 994 343. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 5 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant traverses this rejection and objection, at least for the following reasons.

Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner that claims 2 and 5 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 6 and 7, and rewrote objected-to claims 2 and 5 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 2 and 5, and their dependent claims 3-4 and 8-10 should be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and objection applied to the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the examined claims should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a timely allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the pending Office Action are respectfully requested.

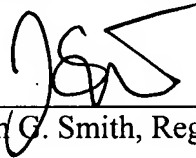
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections, and

the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,



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